

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, lines 24-29, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The swelling of the nucleus may be induced by treatment with at least one polyanionic compound, such as heparin, dextran sulfate or high molecular weight ( $>20,000$  Da) polyaspartic acids, as described by KRAEMER and COFFEY [Biochim. Biophys. Acta., 224, 568-578 (1970)].